

Co-Occurrence of Tenses And Adverbs in Spontaneous Speech

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the co-occurrence of tenses and the accompanied adverbs by L1 Macedonian, Albanian and English students at the South European University, Macedonia. An additional aim of this research is finding out whether the students' performance correlates with their Morphology grades, a second year course in which tenses are taught, practiced and tested, as well as whether their performance in this study correlates with their GPA (Grade Point Average). For the sake of finding out whether the co-occurrence is grammatical and appropriate, the third year students, studying English Language and Literature, at the same university, have been involved in 10 open and semi-controlled activities in the form of a recorded interview. Tense/adverb co-occurrence as well as knowledge retention from the course Morphology which they attended as first year students, was tested in three groups of 5 students with different first languages. The participants in this experiment with different L1s also provided foundation for L1 tense interference analysis. The initial anticipation was that the results will show evidence of their knowledge gained in the course Morphology in which they have been explicitly taught the English tense system. The transcribed data showed that the co-occurrence of the tenses did not mirror the anticipated performance. In other words, the comparison of the results with their Morphology 1 grades and their GPA (grade point average) showed some inconstancies